

Date 6/26/06

Time on Station: N/A

Location: 9° 50'30" N , -104° 17'30"

Site No. Around M VENT, central to the northern portion of array

Instrument No. All within range

Discussion:

The tow cam fiber failed around 1AM local, so communication attempts with the instruments were made. Dan Fornari hit the rack and "gave" me the ship, so I immediately gave the first mate coordinates to a great break in mainland Mexico... George is a pretty bright guy, however, and I was confined to the current work area.

Of most interest on this night are sites 309 and 212.

Site 309 was very difficult to disable... it, however, gave solid ranges without fail. It was finally disabled after some creative maneuvering with the ship. The instrument is on the western slope of the ridge, just west of Biovent. The theory is that the instrument is having line of sight issues from several angles and the enable / burn command should be sent from the western / north-western quadrant next year. One geologist on board (Adam) is not convinced. He said the relief of the ridge is not sufficient enough to cause extreme line of sight issues.

Site 212 is not talking... This is the one which gave a 16 ping enable confirmation 2 nights ago. It also gave a 12 ping disable confirmation. I really don't know what to say about this one. I had the ship maneuvered in 4 cardinal positions offset 200m from the OBS location with no response. I feel I may have heard her dying hour two nights ago.

8:15 UTC

- Enable 309 (79) [last known status: alive]
 - 7/7 ping confirmation
 - range: 2552m
 - disable failed 10x

moving on to 9.944217N, -104.287847W

8:27 UTC

- On station
- Enable 308 (66) [last known status: alive]
 - 7/7 ping confirmation
 - range: 2652m
- disable 308
 - 7/7 ping confirmation 8:30 UTC

8:30 UTC

- enable 208 (26) [last known status: mute]
 - no response
- enable 312 (57) [last known status: alive]
 - 7/7 ping confirmation
 - range: 2615 m
- disable 312
 - 7/7 ping confirmation on the third try (8:35 UTC)

8:36 UTC

- enable 311 (27) [last known status: alive]
 - 7/7 ping reply
 - range: unable to obtain ranges
- disable 311
 - 7/7 ping confirmation on 4th try... 8:41 UTC
- enable 211 (35) [last known status: mute]
 - no response
- enable 305 (05) [last known status: mute]
 - no response
- tried to enable 304 (15), 307(64), 310(73), 302(47)
 - no response on any... ship position likely too far north... will make more attempts to communicate tomorrow.

9:03 UTC [9.851843N, -104.295902W]

- returned to site 309(79) [still enabled from earlier]
- enable 309
 - no response 5x
- disable 309
 - no response 5x
- range 2526m
- move 200m West
- disable 309
 - no response
- move 200m North
- disable 309
 - no response
- move 200m North West
- disable 309
 - finally 7/7 disable confirm 9:41UTC
 - final disable coordinates = [9 51.173, -104 17.437]

9:57 UTC [9.84142N, -104.29968W]

- enable 212 [last known status: stuck but responding]
 - no response 15x
- move 200m North
- enable 212

- no response 5x
- move 200m West
- enable 212
 - no response 5x
- move 200m South
- enable 212
 - no response 5x

10:31 UTC

- its 4:30 in the f-ing morning and karma wins. Going to hit the rack.